



# Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

*Celebrating 31 Years of Leadership & Advocacy*

[www.laccod.org](http://www.laccod.org)



## MEMBERS

Janet A. Neal  
Chair

Richard Krzyzanowski  
Vice Chair

Kecia Weller  
Treasurer

Mary Chambers  
Wan-Chun Chang  
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Harley Rubenstein  
Bernard Siegel  
Alexia Teran  
John B. Troost  
Wendy Welt  
Sheila D. Wright

## **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Neal at 1:15 p.m. Introduction of Commissioners, staff and audience members followed.

### **APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2007 MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Krzyzanowski, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and duly carried (Commissioners Rubenstein and Weller abstained), the minutes for the meeting of February 21, 2007 were approved with the following corrections:

#### **Page 8 Under Adjournment**

Chair Neal adjourned in memory of Wilson Matt **Matlock**, who passed away after a prolonged illness.

#### **Page 9 Under Guests**

Regina Houston-Swang ~~Swain~~, City of Los Angeles  
Mitch Pomerantz, American Disabilities Act Compliance Program  
**ADA Coordinator, City of Los Angeles**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Chin Ho Liao**, Chair of Community Outreach Committee and member of the Community Advisory Committee for Access Services reported his attendance to the Los Angeles County Neighborhood Legal Services Awards on March 11, 2007 at the California Institute of Technology in the city of Pasadena.

Present at this event were Martha Russell who, according to Mr. Liao, introduced herself as a representative for the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities, Congresswoman Hilda Solis and Senator Alex Padilla.

Mr. Liao had the opportunity to speak to Congresswoman Hilda Solis with whom he shared concerns about the need for additional funding for transportation services for the disability community. There are approximately 1.3 million disabled people in the County of Los Angeles, according to statistics by the Department of Health Services. However, *Access Services* only accommodates 73,000 individuals, resulting in only 5.6 percent of the disability population.

Ronee C. Ellis reported that she attended a meeting at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Congresswoman Hilda Solis was present at the meeting. Ms. Ellis added that she also attended another event in 2001 where Senator Alex Padilla was present.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Neal reported the following:

- She received correspondence from a family with children who suffer with Alher's Danlos Syndrome and whose father is incarcerated. He is disabled and alleges that he is not receiving adequate medical treatment in prison. Chair Neal has requested Vice Chair Krzyzanowski's assistance to ensure that this individual's civil rights are not violated and she will keep the Commission current on any intervention and development on this case.
- She received a great evaluation from the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center for her appearance as a guest speaker to an event hosted by this organization on February 13, 2007.
- She received information from the Community at large relating to problems encountered by the disability community, when ordering food from establishments that offer home delivery services.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported that the Commission on Disabilities' Website has been updated to reflect forthcoming special event information.

Commissioner Weller inquired about the status of the updates to the Commissioners' biographies that are currently posted to the Commission on Disabilities' Website. Commission staff informed Commissioner Weller that biographies are currently being updated.

### **PRESENTATION BY JESSICA PAUL MARTINEZ, PATIENTS RIGHTS ADVOCATE**

Presentation was deferred to the meeting on April 18, 2007.

### **PRESENTATION BY TEDDIE JOY REMHILD, DISABILITY/SENIOR ISSUES COORDINATOR, PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES COUNCIL (PASC)**

Ms. Remhild, Coordinator of Disability and Senior Issues for the Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC), reported the following:

#### **Report of results of the Quality Assurance Unit**

- As a result of the Independent Living Movement in the sixties and seventies, the In Home Support Services (IHSS) program was established in the State of California in 1973 and to date is a model program for the United States.
- The Los Angeles County's Personal Assistance Service Council (PASC) established by County Ordinance in 1997 is the public authority that oversees the IHSS for Los Angeles County. PASC develops and implements comprehensive approaches to improve IHSS. PASC works together with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), consumers, home care workers, and the *Service Employees International Union (SEIU)* to increase the quality and service delivery of the IHSS Program by developing trainings for both consumers and providers. Trainings are administered by PASC staff and monthly meetings are held throughout the County.

- Due to Federal funding received by the state of California, a series of fraud safeguards were created by the Federal Government to monitor the IHSS program. Such programs include the *Quality Assurance Program* (QAP) and the *Hourly Time for Task Regulations*.
- QAP calls for several mandates which included the implementation of a comprehensive statewide training program. Social workers receive trainings on conducting client assessments and preventative measures to detect fraud and prevent abuse of the program. The goal of the Program is to ensure its integrity and that every consumer is given a fair and accurate assessment of services needed.
- The PASC Board of Directors holds meetings on the first Monday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Attendees include the *DPSS IHSS*, *SEIU*, and other stakeholders that meet to develop quarterly reports on the results of the QAP, the Hourly Time for Task Policies, service delivery issues for IHSS consumers and fringe benefits for IHSS providers. Copies of reports are available on the DPSS website.

#### *SEIU Local 434B Name Change Agreement*

- The other IHSS union in the State of California went under the United Domestic Workers' Unions.
- The SEIU is the main union for the IHSS program in the State of California.
- SEIU Local 434B has changed its name to SEIU Local 6034.
- Members wages will be increase effective April 1, 2007 to \$9.00 an hour and health care insurance will be available

PASC's Back-Up Program

- PASC developed the *PASC Back-Up Program*, a pilot program that assists IHSS consumers with severe disabilities in obtaining a temporary replacement homecare worker when their regular IHSS provider is not available. Consumers must be approved a minimum of 35 hours of personal care services, have immediate need for services and must be registered with the PASC Homecare Registry.
- In 2006, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors awarded PASC funds to run a Back-Up Pilot Program in the County of Los Angeles. In January 2007 the program was implemented in Los Angeles County. However, the State asked the County to cease this County Program in February 2007 due to deficiencies in the streamlining of salaries for providers from Los Angeles County to align with those of other counties in the State of California. The State has since looked into the pilot program and has decided to let the County of Los Angeles continue the Back-Up Program.

(Commissioner Sheila Wright joined the meeting.)

**PRESENTATION BY JOSEPH RIVERA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

Overview on the Special Education Department

Mr. Joseph Rivera gave an overview of the Special Education Department within the Los Angeles County Office of Education which offers services to school aged children (elementary to high school students) that have special needs.

Mr. Rivera also distributed information on the California's *Early Start Program (EAP)*, and reported the following:

- The *EAP* is an early intervention program that provides services to infants and toddlers (ages birth to 36 months) that have full or low incident disabilities and gives support to their families.
- Services provided include specialized instruction, hearing, speech, vision, physical and occupational therapy, nutrition services and counseling.

- Referrals can be made by parents or any individual who comes in contact with the child such as family members, pediatricians, social workers, nurses, or child care providers. Referrals can be made by calling city local Regional Centers, education agencies, or family resource centers. Information may also be obtained by calling (562) 922-6111, (800) 515-BABY or by visiting [www.dds.ca.gov.earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov.earlystart).
- Referral processes take approximately 2 days from the date a call is received. Within a 45-day time period after the referral is received, a team of professionals begin the child assessment to establish eligibility. If a child qualifies for the *EAP*, a meeting is held to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan.
- Services can be administered in a child's home, child care, school, or any other place where a child spends time.
- California's *EAP*, which is under the *Early Intervention Act* and is federally and state funded, offers free services.

After a question and answer forum, Mr. Rivera added the following:

- In an effort to disseminate information to the public, staff visits prenatal clinics to present information about the program.
- An ad was recently placed in *El Classificado*, a Spanish newspaper, about the *EAP*.
- One of the program's major challenges is the dissemination of information to the public. Television public service announcements are currently underway in an effort to achieve greater outreach.

(Commissioner Wan-Chun Chang, representing the California State Department of Rehabilitation joined the meeting.)

Chair Neal welcomed and introduced Commissioner Chang.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Relations Committee**

Chair Neal reported the following:

#### **Development of the 2007 Access Awards Luncheon**

#### **Bill Tainter's Scholarship**

#### **Update on the Disability Network Radio Program [www.ktym.com](http://www.ktym.com)**

- The Executive Committee met and discussed the criteria selection process for the 2007 Access Awards Nominees and Bill Tainter Nominees. Recruitment letters will be sent in April 2007. Schools for students with disabilities will be invited to participate.
- The Disability Network Radio Program is doing very well. Transcripts of the program will soon be available. Public Services announcements are welcomed.

Commissioner Krzyzanowski added the following:

- The Commission on Disabilities was invited to attend An *Asian Language Open Recovery Conference* to be held on March 23, 2007. This event will provide a good outreach opportunity.
- The Department of Public Health will hold an event on April 4, 2007 at the Sims Mann Health and Wellness Center in the city of Santa Monica. The Commission has secured a vendor table at which Commission on Disabilities' literature will be distributed.
- The Commission will have a literature table at the Los Angeles County Annual Multicultural Conference to be held in May 2006. This conference is a two-day Conference and will provide for a great public outreach.
- The Abilities Expo is scheduled this summer in the city of Long Beach. No arrangements have been made by the Commission to participate in this event; however, Commissioner Krzyzanowski plans to attend to distribute Commission literature.

## **Transportation Committee**

### ASI Report – Teddie Joy Remhild

Chair Neal reported that she received the agenda and minutes for ASI meetings.

### City of Los Angeles, City Ride Program

None

### MTA Report – Chip Hazen

Chip Hazen reported on a program under the purview of the Transportation Reauthorization Bill (TRB). TRB contains a funding program called the *New Freedom Initiatives Program* which funds new projects that will allow ADA accommodations in new projects. Approximately 21 million dollars are currently available. Funds will be used for mobility programs for County projects.

Chip Hazen further added that the East Los Angeles Goldline is 50% complete and due to open in 2009. The Exposition Line will begin construction in summer 2007, with stations on the corner of Vermont and Exposition Blvd., and the possibility of a second station near the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Chair Neal thanked Mr. Hazen for his information and for appearing on the *Community Forum Radio Program*.

## **LEGISLATION**

None.

## **ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

Commissioner Wright requested that the following items be placed on future agendas for review and discussion:

- Commission's Mission Statement
- Commission's Parliamentarian Responsibilities
- Commission's Accomplishment List
- Commission letterhead redesign



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Neal reported the following:

- On Thursday, March 29, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the City of Los Angeles cable station, City View, will broadcast a life Disability Forum. This program will feature two experts in the field of health care, one from the Western University of Health Science, and the other from Center for Health Care Rights. For information call (800) 846-6066.
- The Make a Wish Foundation will host an event on March 29, 2007. For information call (909) 249-1040. Commissioners wishing to attend that event to provide Commission literature may contact Michael Dickey for arrangements.

Commissioner Rubenstein reported that Congressmen Langemin and Ramstad are preparing to introduce legislation to eliminate Medicare's *in the home* restriction on mobility devices. He encouraged everyone to call their respective representative at the Capitol's switchboard at (877) 224-0041 to oppose this piece of legislation proposal and requested that the Commission partake in this effort.

Commissioner Teran reported that the Obregon Park in Cypress will hold a Safety Fair.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commission Krzyzanowski requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Steve Musick, who passed away on March 4, 2006. Mr. Musick worked for the Kern County Mental Health Department as a patients' right advocate.

There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Krzyzanowski, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Janet A. Neal, Chair  
Richard Krzyzanowski, Vice-Chair  
Mary Chambers  
Alexia Teran  
John Troost  
Sheila Wright  
Wan-Chun Chang  
Bernard Siegel  
Kecia Weller  
Harley Rubenstein

**Excused Absence**

Michael Gureckas  
Ernest Hamilton

**Unexcused Absence**

Wendy Welt

**Board of Supervisors**

Rosemary Osuna, Staff  
Martha Arana, Staff

**County of Los Angeles**

Joseph Rivera, Office of Education  
Carlton Lindo, Consumer Affairs  
Royce Crowder, Sheriff's Dept.

**ASI**

Richard Martindale-Essington  
Teddie Joy Remhild  
Arun Prem

**MTA**

Chip Hazen

**Guests**

Jane Goodman, Total Recall Captioning Services  
Michael Purcell, Life Signs  
Jessie Padilla, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center  
Dr. Dennis O'Brian, Los Angeles County Client Coalition  
Donna Pomerantz  
Maria Villaseñor  
Donald Brandon  
Rone E. Ellis  
Maria N. Tan  
Robyn J. Knight